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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/894,076

Applicant(s)

YAUNG, ALAN TSU-I

Examiner

Hoang-Vu A. Nguyen-Ba

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/22/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-16,18-30 and 32-42.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 1/28/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Hoang-Vu A. Nguyen-Ba*

**ANTONY NGUYEN-BA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This examiner's amendment is responsive to Amendment after NonFinal, filed February 22, 2005.
2. The examiner has fully considered Applicants' arguments filed concurrently with the above amendment and initiated a telephone interview with Applicants' Representative on June 9, 2005 to discuss possible claim amendments that would place the application in condition for allowance.
3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given as a result of several telephone interviews with Applicants' Representative Rabindranath Dutta, Reg. No. 51,010, during the period of time between June 9 and July 8, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for executing a workflow, comprising:

providing a workflow class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and control of workflows;

providing a work list class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and manipulate work items assigned to the workflows; and

providing a work item class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and manipulate work items when executing one workflow;

providing a container class implementing methods and objects to provide information and control containers provided for the workflows, wherein a container comprises an object that is used to transfer information among nodes by enabling users to read and write data to the container;

calling one method in the work list class to determine nodes and associated work items in the workflow to process;

calling one method in the work item class to lock a work item when providing a user access to workflow actions and documents associated with the work item; and

calling one method in the work item class to unlock the work item after the user has completed all actions associated with the work item.

3. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information and control containers provided for workflows, wherein the container comprises an object~~

~~that is used to transfer information among nodes by enabling users to read and write data to the container; and~~

calling the methods in the container class to read and write data to the container for at least one user of one work item.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

~~providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information on and control of containers used in workflows to transport data among the nodes, wherein a container object comprises an object that is used to transfer information among the nodes by enabling users to read and write data to a container; and~~

instantiating one container object maintaining information on one container used in a the workflow, wherein one container object is associated with one workflow object and one work item.

15. (Currently amended) A computer system for executing a workflow, comprising:

means for providing a workflow class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and control of workflows;

means for providing a work list class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and manipulate work items assigned to the workflows; and

means for providing a work item class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and manipulate work items when executing one workflow;

means for providing a container class implementing methods and objects to provide information and control containers provided for workflows, wherein a container comprises an object that is used to transfer information among nodes by enabling users to read and write data to the container;

means for calling one method in the work list class to determine nodes and associated work items in the workflow process;

means for calling one method in the work item class to lock a work item when providing a user access to workflow actions and documents associated with the work item; and

means for calling one method in the work item class to unlock the work item after the user has completed all actions associated with the work item.

17. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

~~means for providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information and control containers provided for workflows, wherein the container~~

~~comprises an object that is used to transfer information among nodes by enabling users to read and write data to the container; and~~

means for calling the methods in the container class to read and write data to the container for at least one user of one work item.

27. (Currently amended) The system of claim 22, further comprising:

~~means for providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information on and control of containers used in workflows to transport data among the nodes, wherein a container object comprises an object that is used to transfer information among the nodes by enabling users to read and write data to a container; and~~

means for instantiating one container object maintaining information on one container used in a the workflow, wherein one container object is associated with one workflow object and one work item.

29. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture for executing a workflow, wherein the article of manufacture is enabled to execute operations on a processor, the operations comprising:

providing a workflow class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and control of workflows;

providing a work list class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and manipulate work items assigned to the workflows; and

providing a work item class implementing methods and objects to provide information on and manipulate work items when executing one workflow; ;

providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information and control containers provided for workflows, wherein a container comprises an object that is used to transfer information among nodes by enabling users to read and write data to the container;

calling one method in the work list class to determine nodes and associated work items in the workflow to process;

calling one method in the work item class to lock a work item when providing a user access to workflow actions and documents associated with the work item; and

calling one method in the work item class to unlock the work item after the user has completed all actions associated with the work item.

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[1]] 15, wherein the classes comprise object oriented classes.

31. (Canceled).

34. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 29, the operations further comprising:

~~providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information and control containers provided for workflows, wherein the container comprises an object that is used to transfer information among nodes by enabling users to read and write data to the container; and~~

calling the methods in the container class to read and write data to the container for one at least one user of one work item.

41. (Currently amended) The article of manufacture of claim 36, the operations further comprising:

~~providing a container class including methods and objects to provide information on and control of containers used in workflows to transport data among the nodes, wherein a container object comprises an object that is used to transfer information among the nodes by enabling users to read and write data to a container; and~~

instantiating one container object maintaining information on one container used in a the workflow, wherein one container object is associated with one workflow object and one work item.



4. Per Applicant's request, references cited by examiner and references listed on PTO-1449 forms submitted concurrently with copending application nos. 09/894,074 and 09/894,413 are listed on PTO-892 and PTO-1449 forms attached to the Notice of Allowability of this application.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Hoang-Vu A. Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-3701. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 7:15 – 17:45.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Tuan Dam can be reached at (571) 272-3695.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 Art Unit 2192  
July 8, 2005

**ANTONY NGUYEN-BA  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**